

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5683
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
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AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: POLISH MEDIA AND BREZHNEV'S BIRTHDAY

REF: WARSAW 9059

1. SUMMARY. THE POLISH PRESS WAS GENERALLY IN STEP WITH THE REST OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN MEDIA IN ITS BUILDUP TO BREZHNEV'S 70TH BIRTHDAY. CONSIDERABLE SPACE WAS DEVOTED DURING THE WEEK PRECEDING THE EVENT TO BREZHNEV, HIS FOREIGN POLICY, HIS ACHIEVEMENTS, AND TO THE SOVIET UNION IN GENERAL. DOMINANT IN POLISH TREATMENT OF THE OCCASION WAS THE ENSHRINEMENT OF BREZHNEV AS THE ARCHITECT OF PEACE IN OUR TIME. PZPR FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK'S TRIP TO MOSCOW TO PIN A MEDAL ON BREZHNEV SERVED TO HIGHLIGHT WARSAW'S ATTENTION TO THE CPSU GENERAL SECRETARY.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THE HONORS AWARDED TO BREZHNEV BY VARIOUS COMMUNIST STATES RECEIVED FULL POLISH MEDIA COVERAGE, REACHING A HIGH POINT WITH THE PRESENTATION BY PZPR FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK OF THE ORDER OF THE REBIRTH OF POLAND TO BREZHNEV ON DECEMBER 18 (REF).

3. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ARTICLE IN THE PRESS BUILDUP FOR BREZHNEV'S BIRTHDAY WAS ENTITLED, "LEONID BREZHNEV IS 70 YEARS OLD, PEACE -- THE PRIMARY GOAL." BY PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMD XCIRYSZARD WOJNA. THE PIECE APPEARED IN THE DECEMBER 17 EDITION OF TRYBUNA LUDU. WOJNA STATES THAT "THE NAME OF LEONID BREZHNEV WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY -- WPD STATESMEN OF BOTH EAST AND WEST ARE IN AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT -- AS A POLITICIAN WHO WORKED IN THE NAME OF PEACE." WOJNA ATTRIBUTES THE ACHIEVEMENT OF DETENTE AND THE ENTIRE GAMUT OF RELATED ACHIEVEMENTS, INCLUDING THE "WATERSHED" IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, TO BREZHNEV. WOJNA SAYS THAT "THE PRINCIPLE LAID DOWN TO LENIN OF THE POSSIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF THE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF SOCIALISM WITH CAPITALISM HAS BECOME A FACT ACCEPTED BY THE OTHER SIDE PRECISELY DURING THE PERIOD WHEN LEONID BREZHNEV IS THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CC CPSU. AS A RESULT OF HIS INITIATIVES, HIS TRAVELS, THE VISITS OF OUTSTANDING STATESMEN OF THE ENTIRE WORLD TO THE USSR, AND, ABOVE ALL, AS A RESULT OF HIS PERSONAL CONTACTS AND TALKS, THE PROCESS OF THE CODIFICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE OF NATIONS WITH DIFFERENT SYSTEMS HAS BEGUN. "FURTHER, LEONID BREZHNEV WORKS FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE FROM THE POSITION OF A COMMUNIST, I.E., HE IS DEEPLY CONVINCED, AND REALITY SUBSTANTIATES THE CORRECTNESS OF THIS CONVICTION, THAT PROGRESS IN THE PROCESS OF REDUCING TENSION AND STRENGTHENING PEACE SIMULTANEOUSLY IMPROVES CONDITIONS FOR THE STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM. THIS IS A MEASURE OF THE HUMANISTIC ESSENCE OF OUR SYSTEM.....THE POLISH PEOPLE, KNOWING THE VALUE OF PEACE, HAVE GIVEN, AND WILL

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CONTINUE TO GIVE, COMPLETE SUPPORT TO SOVIET EFFORTS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE...."

4. THIS SAME THEME WAS ECHOED IN A REVIEW OF THE PUBLICATION IN POLISH OF A COLLECTION OF BREZHNEV'S SPEECHES AND ARTICLES DURING THE 1964-76 PERIOD, ENTITLED "THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE CPSU AND THE SOVIET NATION." THE REVIEW BY HENRYK ZDANOWSKI WAS ENTITLED "THE FUTURE BELONGS TO SUCH A POLICY," AND APPEARED IN THE DECEMBER 18 EDITION OF THE WEEKLY POLITYKA. ZDANOWSKI CATALOGUED BREZHNEV'S ACHIEVEMENTS AS FOLLOWS: "THE AMERICANS WERE FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM VIETNAM, THE GERMAN PROBLEM WAS REMOVED FROM THE EUROPEAN AGENDA, IN HELSINKI 35 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE USA AND CANADA RECOGNIZED THE POST-WAR POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY OF EUROPE AND APPROVED THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IMPROVED, WHICH AFFECTED THE INTERNATIONAL ATMOSPHERE, CERTAIN MECHANISMS AND AGREEMENTS WERE BUILT UP WHICH HELP AVERT THE CHANCE OF NUCLEAR WAR, A SERIES

OF DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS WAS BEGUN, THE PROCESS OF DE-COLONIALIZATION HAS RAPIDLY MOVED FAR AHEAD, FASCIST REGIMES IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL WERE OVERTHROWN, AND THE PROCESS OF DEMOCRATIZATION HAS BEGUN IN SPAIN."

5. COMMENT. SUCH LAVISH PRAISE OF THE SOVIETS DOES NOT SET WELL WITH THE POLISH PUBLIC. THE PZPR KNOWS THIS AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO COUNTERACT, BY EMPHASIZING POLAND'S WESTERN CONNECTION IN THE DAYS AHEAD. END COMMENT.
BROWN

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